



Conservatives
for
Property Rights

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Statement on the International Trade Commission TRIPS Waiver Report

This statement on the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) report on COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics and flexibilities in the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) may be attributed to James Edwards, Executive Director, Conservatives for Property Rights:

“The International Trade Commission’s thorough, months-long investigation provides little basis for expanding the TRIPS waiver to COVID diagnostics and therapeutics. The facts USITC found indicate that waiving TRIPS IP protections further isn’t warranted.

“First, the pandemic has passed; the emergency is over. Second, IP facilitated collaboration, making supply of COVID vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics available to poor countries.

“Third, the barriers to access had nothing to do with IP. In fact, pharma companies and Western governments and charities donated the products en masse. Rather, the problems in low-income nations lay in shortcomings in their health care, transportation and governmental systems—problems preexisting the COVID pandemic.

“In short, USITC provides the U.S. Trade Representative no grounds to rationalize expansion of the TRIPS waiver. Now that COVID is endemic, it’s time to repeal the vaccine IP waiver.”

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CPR TRIPS Items:

- **CPR Comments** to USITC
- **Coalition Letter** to U.S. Trade Representative